

# Glorious Gospel Publication



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# THANKSGIVING



**“Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift (2 Cor. 9:15).”** God’s immeasurable, inexpressible giving calls forth from us wholehearted thanks-living. That is thoughtful expression of real appreciation, not just lip service, but true deeper from the heart, activating our lives.

“What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us who can be against us? He that spared not His own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.” Rom. 8:31-34.

We truly give ourselves to God’s beneficial will, when we presently realize how blessed we are even now. Then we also are blessed to consider how good He has been to us in the past. Then yet to know of the great goodness our Father has in store for us for ever with our Lord. Oh to realize that all is made *abundantly* available unto us is upon the basis of the unselfish sacrifice of our beloved Lord Jesus Christ. Oh, what a long lonesome journey He traveled in order to prepare for us (the dreaded cross, even the lonely tomb), but then, thank God He arose, to return to the place of our soon to be heavenly home! The joyful presence of our Father’s welcome home.

But now thank God through out this age He has also been working in us to get us ready for that glorious place with Him. We now truly more fully express our appreciation as we keep

coming back to Him for more and more of all that He has been preparing us for.

See 1 Thess. 2:11-13: Paul thanked God that those believers would walk worthy of God who had called them unto His kingdom and glory. Such manifested *thankful hearts*, of those that received the Word of God, not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God, which works effectually in those that believe. Phil. 2:13: For it is God that works in us the will and do of His good pleasure. Thank God for the developing of the life of Christ in us, by the power of the Holy Spirit, and the effectual working of the Word in us. Oh yes, He said I go to prepare a place for you, and oh how He has faithfully worked. But yet not every eye has seen nor ear heard, nor has it entered into the heart of every man all that He has prepared for them that love Him in return. This plan all originated with our loving Father and our gracious Lord. As we yield our life more completely to God, our lives are made more fruitful unto His glory. Thank God!

He has the best possible worth sharing program there could ever be; and the best security system. He said, I am thy shield and exceedingly *great* reward. Praise God! They are out of this world. When we give ourselves or of ourselves, let it be of loves appreciation rather than legal requirement. When we *let the love of Christ constrain us*, such is most beneficial, blessed and eternally enjoyable.

### **EXAMPLES OF THANKFULNESS and encouragement thereunto**

“Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah.” Ps. 68:19. Can we believe it and back our wagon up and load up and share them with others? With thankfulness? When? Early? At midnight I will

*arise to give thanks* unto thee. Psa.19:62. Shall I leave my rest behind, at opportune times and otherwise? It is our privilege always to have an attitude of gratitude! Is such an aspect of overcoming? How would a full overcomer think of praise and thanksgiving as a sacrifice? Especially in view of all our dear Lord has done and is doing for us, and in us? Oh what a grand and glorious privilege! **“It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High: To shew forth thy loving kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night.”** Psa. 92:1-2. When the writer says “good,” it is speaking of that which is most beneficial, to take highest enjoyment therefrom. “Thing” in italics would indicate far more than a singular act, but a precious privileged practice. Paul sings, **“In every thing give thanks;** for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” 1 Thess. 5:18. Thank God that we can expect Him to make all things work together for our good. Rom. 8:28. We know it is so good for us to enter such a state being thankful, because He repeatedly tells us so. We are glad to do it with delight because He enjoys it, and we have joy in pleasing Him, “Our beloved.”

*“Giving thanks* unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.” Col. 1:12. “As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him. Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, **abounding** therein *with thanksgiving.*” Col. 2:6-7. “...let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and *be ye thankful.*” Col. 3:15. “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, *giving thanks* to God and the Father by him.” Col. 3:17.

God’s will for our thankfulness is abundantly stated. Our desire to please Him should equate thereunto.

J. D.



## **Christ's Return**

**“For yet a little while, and he that shall come  
will come, and will not tarry.” Heb 10:37**

**The skies are growing darker,  
With the passing of the years,  
And life becomes more restless,  
And on every hand are fears:  
Men know not what is coming,  
Yet feel something lies ahead,  
Which fills them with foreboding  
And a solemn sense of dread.**

**But Christians we are waiting  
For the breaking of the day:  
We are certain Christ is coming —  
He may now be on the way.  
Deeper still will grow earth's darkness —  
Still more awesome grow its night,  
But for Christ our eyes are looking,  
Quick may come the Rapture bright.  
— Author Unknown**



# THE LAST DAYS

Anita Clark



**“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall come forth unto Me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old from everlasting” Micah 5: 2.**

This prophecy of the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ was made by the Holy Spirit inspiring Micah the prophet. In Genesis 49:8-12 previous prophecies foretold that the Messiah would come of the tribe of Judah. Verse 10 states “The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh (speaking of Christ, the Peaceful One) come; and unto Him shall the gathering of the people be.” Also, look at Verse 8, the word “praise” means “to worship.” Bethlehem was called the “City of David” (Luke 2:4). God used a strange set of circumstances to get Joseph and Mary, the pregnant mother of Jesus up to Bethlehem. He used Caesar Augustus, no less, to make a decree to tax, or actually perform a census to number the subjects under Rome’s control.

God used a young virgin to fulfill His plan, of a baby born into this world, Who would also be the Son of God, having human form, yet being God. As Micah said, “...Whose goings forth have been from everlasting.” “Therefore the LORD Himself will give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel (meaning God with us) Isa. 7:14. God’s plan was carried out meticulously in every detail. As Isaiah prophesied further, “So shall My word be that goeth forth out of My mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it” Isa. 55:11. Every prophecy of the first coming of the Lord Jesus Christ has been

fulfilled. This gives us assurance that God will fulfill all the prophecies of the second coming of Christ just as assuredly as He did the prophecies of the first coming.

At the first coming was Christ as the sacrificial Lamb of God. The second coming will proclaim Christ to be the King of Kings and Lord of Lords ruling upon the throne of His father, David. Because He was willing to come in such a humble way and die such a despicable death, one only reserved to the vilest of persons, “Wherefore God hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow of things in heaven and things in earth, and things under the earth; That at the name of Jesus every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father” (Phil. 2:9-11).

The signs of Jesus Christ’s second coming are very significant today. The signs are pointing toward the end of the Age of Grace and forward to the time of judgment, called the Tribulation of seven years. Here are a few of the signs rocking planet earth in these last days.

### **ISRAELI AIR FORCE READY TO DEAL WITH IRAN.**

The Jerusalem Post reports that AF Maj. Gen. Ido Nehushtan has said that Israel is ready to strike Iran’s nuclear facilities at any time. According to Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak, “The U.S. and Europe should put aside differences with China and Russia over human-rights and missile-defense issues to focus on working together to stop Iran from developing nuclear weapons.” Today’s news says that Iran has enough enriched uranium to make one bomb.

Instead of standing against Iran with the other nations, Russia has become an ally to Iran and has provided them with long range missiles, and enriched uranium, and technical advisers to further their exploding nuclear development.

How does this fit in with end time prophecy? Again Ezekiel 37, 38 & 39, where we see the prophecies of Gog (Ancient Russia) joined to Persia (Iran) to go up against Israel.

In that prophecy the Lord shows in Chapter 37 the revival of the nation Israel, and in Chapter 38 the attempt of Russia and Iran and other Arab states to attack Israel as they live in their “land of unwalled villages.” In Chapter 38:18 it says, “It shall come to pass at that time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, that my fury shall come up in my face...Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel....And I shall call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains...And I will rain hailstones, fire and brimstone. Thus will I magnify Myself...and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD” Ch. 38:18-23. Later in chapter 39, God states that Russia will be destroyed along with her allies leaving only a “sixth part” of them. In verse 12, it tells us that it will take seven months to bury the dead.

When will this prophecy take place? In the near future Israel will sign a peace treaty with the nations, no doubt guaranteeing her national security. (See Daniel 9:27). Isaiah refers to it as “ a covenant with death and hell,” (Isa. 28:15). Apostle Paul refers to this time in I Thess. 5:3, “For when they shall say (to relate or set discourse - i.e. to parley together for peace): then sudden destruction cometh upon them as travail upon a woman with child and they shall not escape.”

Who is the “they” referred to? Primarily, the nation of Israel. They will make a treaty or covenant which they will think will give them peace. This will be signed into effect at the beginning of the seven years of tribulation. But, at the middle of that seven years, the AntiChrist will break that covenant and persecute Israel in a worse manner than they have ever suffered before. Just when they think they have peace, war will break out. We see this in Rev. 6, where the white horse representing peace will be replaced with the red horse of war. Verse 4 says, “There went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.”



In Daniel 9:27, it says, "In the midst of the week he (AntiChrist) shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even unto the consummation (or end)..." Daniel 8:11 says, "Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the hosts (as their prince) and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of the sanctuary was cast down." This verse infers that the Jews will have a temple at that end time period. There has never been a temple since the destruction of Jerusalem by Rome in 70 A.D. It may be that part of the treaty signed with the nations and the AntiChrist will guarantee a temple for the Jews. Right now the Temple Mount Faithful, a group of orthodox Jews, have been building the furniture, training the priests of the line of Cohen, raising the red heifers which will be for the cleansing of the priests, even creating a corner stone a few years ago. These are facts, not fantasy. We are living very near the time when the words of these prophecies will be fulfilled.

**WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO US?** The Scripture declares that God is visiting the Gentiles to take out of them a people - this Church Age (Acts 15:14). This age has continued over 2,000 years. The rapture of the overcomers of the Church will take place before the seven years of tribulation (Rev. 3:10; I Thess. 4:13-18), before peace and safety is achieved by Israel and the nations. At that time AntiChrist will be obscure in the back ground. Jesus' throne will be set in heaven (See Rev. 4), but the world will be oblivious to this. There is no prophecy that needs to be fulfilled before this event takes place. These signs of the tribulation will take place in the future. When we see so clearly these things concerning the coming judgment just on the verge of being fulfilled let me ask you, "How near then does that make the catching away of the bride of the Lord Jesus Christ, who will be kept from the hour of tribulation, which is coming upon the world to try them who dwell upon the earth?"

**TROUBLES WITH THE ECONOMY** – Britain’s Prime Minister Gordon Brown recently said, “The international crisis has given world leaders a unique opportunity to create a truly global society.” He further states, “The alliance between Washington and Britain - and more broadly between Europe and the U.S. must provide leadership to lead to the global effort to build a stronger and more just international order.” He speaks of “...seizing this moment to build a global society.” These signs are looking forward to the time when the AntiChrist will come upon the scene and unite the whole world under his leadership. Revelation 17:13 tells us, “These (nations) have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.” Also, verse 17, “God hath put in their hearts to fulfill His will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.” Rev. 13:4 says, “And they worshiped the beast, saying who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him?” These things will take place in the seven years of tribulation, but we can see them beginning to be promoted by the leaders of the world right now. They are gullible, and will not realize the deceitfulness of Satan, who will empower the “beast.” God is allowing this economical crisis. He is working out the plan made before the foundation of the world. It will all culminate in the coming judgment and the removal of all that is false; finally Christ ruling upon His throne.

Do not be dismayed! Don’t let Satan worry your mind at this crucial hour. God has promised to meet our needs (Phil. 4:19). He has said, “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee (Heb. 13:5). It is time to trust in God. He is our great Shepherd and will take care of His sheep. He is preparing a people to rule and reign with Him. Overcomers are made through affliction and trial. Let us look up for our redemption is near.

***Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All, Thy works shall praise Thy name,  
in earth, and sky, and sea.***

# A GOOD REPORT

by Ukachukwu Onukaogu

My dear CO-Labourer in His vineyard,

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you very much for your partnership in the spreading of the gospel, which I have been enjoying all these years, especially this year 2008.

Yes, all the bulk mails have been getting to me in good condition, and in time too.

I am referring to the bulk mails containing Gospel publications.

I always see it as a special favour from the Lord in the Ministry I received from Him, in that for the past six years you have not failed in supplying me with your publications, for free and prayerful distribution here in my country.

It is an answered prayer, because in the midst of very high cost of postage, the provisions of the Lord have been enabling you to continue in this good work. The most thrilling aspect of it is that nowadays bulk mails do get to my end here in just a few weeks. That is unlike in the past when that used to take several months. May the Lord's name be praised, who uses even difficult situations to accomplishing and promoting His work.

Yes, all these bulk mails you have been sending to me are not only a source of blessing to my ministry, but other gospel workers here in my country. The materials are shared with these other gospel workers, located in various areas of life like: schools, hospitals, churches, prisons, streets, public buses, offices, homes etc.

These gospel outreaches have continued to be very fruitful because testimonies continues to come from various groups and individuals on how the Lord used your publications in blessing their lives.

It is my earnest prayer that God who has been supplying with all that your needs, and thereby making it possible for you to keep sending me all those bulk mails, will continue to do so next year 2009, all to the glory and honour of His name.

May I summarize this letter with these words of encouragement from the word of God:

“Therefore my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the works of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” 2 Corinthians 15 v58.

Yours in His love and service,

Ukachukwu Onukaogu, Abia State, Nigeria West Africa



***I Met the Master***

***I met Him and knew Him and blushed to see  
That His eyes full of sorrow were fixed on me;  
And I faltered and fell at His feet that day,  
While my castles melted and vanished away.  
Melted and vanished and in their place  
Naught else did I see but the Master's face.  
And I cried aloud, "Oh, make me meet  
To follow the steps of Thy wounded feet."  
My thought is now for the souls of men,  
I have lost my life to find it again,  
E'er since one day in a quiet place  
I met the Master face to face.***

# THE CUP

Verta Giddings

This term is used many times in the Scriptures. When Jesus spoke of the cup, He meant more than an actual, literal cup.

In the Old Testament it could speak of either sorrow or joy. For instance Psalm 11:6 says, “Upon the wicked He shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup.” Other verses use the words **cup of trembling, cup of fury, cup of astonishment**, judgment which would come upon the Lord’s enemies, upon the false church, and even upon His own people because of disobedience.

In the life of Jesus:

1. Jesus told the mother of James and John of the cup awaiting Him - Matt. 20:20-23. Jesus knew ahead of time what this would mean. Then He asked them if they were able to drink of the cup that He would drink of. They claimed they were able to do so. They were told that for one to sit on His right side and the other on His left in His kingdom was to be given to whom it is prepared of His Father.

2. At the last supper, Jesus spoke of the cup - Matt. 26:26-28. He gave thanks, yet He knew the very bread symbolized His broken body, and the contents of the cup, His precious shed blood. He wouldn’t be taking this cup from the devil, thus He could give thanks.

3. In Gethsemane (Matt. 26:36-42), He knew full well what He was facing. He could pray thus, “O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not my will, but as

Thou wilt.” Jesus was to bear the sins and suffering of the whole race of men. He indeed bore the fury, the wrath of God. He did this all in our stead. He was willing to take the place of judgment for you and for me.

4. When they came to arrest Him, He didn’t resist - John 18:10-11. He understood the cup was from the Father’s hand, so He accepted it.

We are called upon to suffer, but not vicariously. We suffer rejection from the world and even from religious leaders and their followers. Jesus is training us to reign with Him. He was outside the religious camp. If we are to drink of this cup, and be baptized with the baptism that He was baptized with, there will be suffering involved. II Tim. 2:11-13; Romans 8:16-17. This is not all in vain, for He invites us to this place where we will actually share His glory.

When you are offered the cup, when situations arise in your life and you take this place with Jesus, suffering reproof, misunderstanding, trials, even fiery ones, can you take these from the Lord? Can you realize, this is the cup the Father gave me? There may be times when we have to wrestle in prayer before we take all this from the Father’s hand. Brother Carter said, “I would rather take this trial from the hand of God, rather than from the hand of the devil.”

Get close to Jesus. Bro. Hall reminded us that if he had to take a whipping, he would get real close to his dad, and it didn’t hurt so much. Don’t give credit to the devil. Remember Paul had to pray about his thorn in the flesh - II Cor. 12:7-10. Through this experience he learned about the sufficiency of God’s grace, of strength made perfect in weakness. Heb. 12:2, For the joy that was set before Him (Jesus), He endured the

cross, despising the shame. He is presently set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

All cups are not hard to bear. We are given the cup of salvation - Psa. 116:13. There is the cup of blessing because Jesus bore our shame - I Cor. 10:16-21. We take the cup of the Lord and not the cup of devils. We need to choose. The Lord speaks to us, to "Come out from among them," - II Cor. 6:17-7:1.

Let the Lord fill your cup, whatever size it might be. He can turn sorrow into joy, cursing into blessing. Like Naomi in the Book of Ruth, even if we now feel empty, He can make us full. If we just yield our cup, our vessel, to Him. Remember the vessels of the widow woman in II Kings 4. As long as there were empty vessels brought to her, the Lord caused them to be filled.

(Message given at Sand Lake, Mich. Labor Day fellowship)



*To love to preach is one thing - to  
love those to whom we preach, quite another.*

—o—

*God is preparing His heroes; and when the opportunity  
comes,  
He can fit them into their places in a moment, and the  
world will wonder where they came from.*

—o—

*God sometimes permits us to be perplexed so we may  
learn patience and better recognize our dependence upon  
Him.*

# **“Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever.”**

## **Enhanced Vision 2008**

### **Part 3**

Bonnie Richards

It was Jesus, who on the road to Emmaus, talked with Cleopas and another disciple “Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them *all the Scriptures concerning himself*.” Luke 24:27. I expect their walk slowed as they raptly listened and their hearts burned within them.

**Joseph, Joshua, Samuel, Elijah, David**, names of men who walked with God and continue tracing the scarlet cord of Redemption throughout time. Leaders, deliverers, prophets, priests, Kings — giants of faith with a personal relationship with the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let’s never forget there were innumerable people who walked in faith, but had no record passed on to us. However, they were seen by a God who keeps accurate books.

**David** had a good grasp of redemption and the two natures. His words sound much like what Paul was experiencing in Romans 7, when he desired to do good, he found evil was present in him. Psalm 19:12-14: “Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults. Keep back *your servant* also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of much transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.” And Psalm 51 esp. V. 12 “Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit.” David’s expectation is expressed in the last part of Psalm 16:11: “You will fill me with joy in your presence, with *eternal*



*pleasures* at your right hand.” And Psalm 17:15 “And I — in righteousness I will see your face; when I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing your likeness.” (NIV) David’s walk with the Lord encourages us in our life experiences and we are lifted up to enjoy the blessedness and deliverances David experienced. Like David, we know the same Redeemer, the same loving Father, the same Holy Spirit who ministers to our hearts.

Jesus spoke of **Isaiah’s** marvelous vision and revelation of the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up. He is quoted in John 12:37-41 “Although He (Jesus) had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: “Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?” Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again: “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, lest they should see with their eyes, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn so that I should heal them.” “These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him.”

“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were *assured* of them, *embraced* them and *confessed* that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth” - Heb. 11:13. Unbelief leaves men, blind, hard-hearted, unrepentant of sin, hopeless.

The line blurs between the Old Testament and the New as we realize the continuity of God’s program for mankind. Not two separate books, but one continuous story of Redemption and the Redeemer of men. And it is still ongoing. It is often quoted “The New is in the Old concealed and the Old is in the New revealed.” **Faith** in the Redeemer, Jesus Christ, is key to all God wants to give us. Innumerable ones from every age, named and unnamed in Scripture are redeemed and known to God. Their names are “written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.” Rev. 13:8.

# Beloved, let us love. . .

## Part 10

Doug Delhay

**“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.” 1 John 4:7**

“To be, or not to be: that is the question:”. This, perhaps the most well known line from all of William Shakespeare’s literature, is spoken by Hamlet as he contemplates the advantages and disadvantages of life and death. All other considerations aside, we have in this simple, thought provoking phrase a word picture of a human being contemplating their destiny. He stands at a crossroads where a choice begs to be made. Whatever the choice, the known and unknown await, and bear with them irreversible consequences. To continue to endure life in the flesh with it pains, struggles and injustices, or to “shuffle off this mortal coil” and face the great unknown of death which could be better, or worse. Such was Hamlet’s dilemma and the question he pondered.

Such need not be our dilemma and there is nothing to ponder for we have a sure hope in Christ Jesus our Lord, and great assurance both in this life and the next according to the promise of His Word. However, this is not the point or topic of our study.

We do daily face what we could call a dilemma, a crossroad, or a choice that defines our destiny and introduces great unknowns into our lives. We could phrase our dilemma in these words, “To love, or not to love: that is the question.” To love others as Christ loved us, or to follow Paul’s example of love toward the oft wayward “Corinthians” of our day, is a choice that we are compelled to make. To trouble ourselves and spend our energies by investing in the inconvenient needs of others as the Spirit might lead, or simply turn away and seek a ministry more

agreeable to our taste is a destiny changing decision. Our decision defines our understanding and yieldedness to our calling to love.

“To love” as Christ loves stands apart from mere human love by an immense distance. It is completely different in every way. It is as different as true prophecy is from a prediction, as spiritual wisdom is from good advice, or eternal life is from life in this world. There are natural comparisons given in scripture that enable us to begin to identify with what is being said so we can get an inkling of an idea of what is meant, but the two remain ever different in essence. For such comparisons, see Hebrews 12:9-10 (comparing a father’s chastening to our Father’s chastening), Matthew 23:37 (the gathering of chicks as would a hen), and I Thessalonians 2:7 (“as a nurse cherisheth her children :”).

The choice “to love” sets us off on a path of adventure into a spiritual realm that we would otherwise never know. As the **“beloved”** of God, we are led of the Spirit to yield to the workings and fruitage of **“love”**, and that love is to be jointly given and received of **“one another.”** We, like Jesus, must be so directed by the love of God and the leading of the Spirit that we are willing to move in rhythm with the timeliness of God’s working. In the well known verses from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, we understand that there are timely opposites that we humans must experience and embrace. In part, the verses read, *“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;”*. The love of God toward us is much the same. There is a time when He seems so close, and a time when it seems He cannot be found: There is a time when He gives us great rejoicing, and a time when sorrow is our lot: There is a time when He brings us abundance and a time when we must endure great need. We need to know these timely opposites that we might walk by faith and see the greater work that He is performing in our lives.

It then follows that if we are walking in the love of God toward one another, that we will be both the recipients and source of timely opposites. There is a time when we gather friends together, and a time to stand apart from them: There is a time to plant and to nurture, and there is a time to pluck up that which is planted: There is a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing. Yet in it all the great love of God is manifested according to the particular work that the Spirit is doing in the lives of those involved.

As Paul instructed the Romans regarding the life and conduct of Christians in chapters 12 through 15, he commanded them in 13:8, *“Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.”* The act of loving another will result in manifesting Christ to that individual and pleasing God with our actions in every way. There is none that is justified by the deeds of the law (Romans 3:20), but the just deeds of the law are fully manifested in the actions of love wrought by one who by faith is justified. Godliness wrought in timely love and obedience adorns *“the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.”* (Titus 2:10).

Godliness, spirituality and spiritual maturity must be founded in the love of Christ, or they are not godliness, spirituality or spiritual maturity. Paul enumerates several “spiritual” endeavors and enablings in 1st Corinthians 13:1-3 (*“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing”*), but then distills them down to profitlessness if they were not motivated and undertaken in love. The Corinthians needed to know and practice this even as Christians today need to know and practice this. “Godly” words and works not founded in love ring

hollow in the hearts of those who know the voice of God and do not communicate Christ.

The wrongful glorying of the Corinthians by keeping company with the fornicator referenced in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 5 brought a great sorrow to Paul's heart. He, in love, wrote to them in such a way as to make them understand their error and this resulted in their sorrow for their spiritual failure. Reading in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 2:1-9, we observe that they apparently obeyed Paul's instruction to punish the brother with censure or the withdrawal of fellowship which in turn brought them all a godly sorrow. As a result of their obedience and sensitivity to the Spirit, Paul wrote again to comfort them, and to instruct them to forgive the man that he might successfully continue his life in Christ. In this they were all rejoined in fellowship and with Truth. The love of Christ and eternal benefit was the only true goal through it all. The Corinthians learned a great spiritual lesson and their lives were redeemed from the delusion of carnality.

*“And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.”* (Romans 15:14) The phrase *“able also to admonish one another”* infers that they were spiritually mature enough to admonish one another in love to the benefit of all. It is neither easy nor comfortable for us to admonish a brother, but if the Spirit leads us to do so, the Spirit will enable us to do so. And if the Spirit enables us to do so, the Spirit can enable the one who is admonished to receive it and respond appropriately in the same love in which it was given.

The question that must be addressed and that begs our attention is, “To love, or not to love.” How precious it is to embrace with our arms a beloved brother or sister that we have longed to see. How difficult it is to embrace with an admonition a beloved brother or sister who is walking in the rebellion of sin.

**“Beloved, let us love one another:”** in whatever form or by whatever means is necessary, that Christ may be glorified. **“For love is of God;”** in whatever form or by whatever means it takes.

# The Book of Daniel

## Chapter 9:1-19



**V. 1-3** - The time was “In the first year of Darius.” So this follows Ch. 5:30-31 & 6:1-3. Babylon had fallen and Darius the Median was reigning. Daniel had searched the scriptures and he understood that for 70 years His people would be in Babylonian captivity and after that they would be allowed to go back to the land (Jer. 25:11-12 & 29:10-14). But when he had the vision of chapter eight he realized, that it was for many days and their trouble was not going to end in 70 years. That only ended the Babylonian captivity. It made Daniel sick to learn this - 8:27. Now 70 years was over and God had judged Babylon. Daniel wondered why they were not going back to their land and why the people were not spiritual? We feel like this sometimes, Why don’t God’s people put the Lord first in their lives when His coming is so soon?

Daniel wanted to know what was going to happen to his people. He was so concerned about them and sought the Lord in prayer. If we really want to know the purposes and will of God and what He is doing, we should follow Daniel in this pattern. He **“set his face unto the Lord.”** May we be as determined and God will reveal His Word to our hearts. Eph. 6:18.

Jeremiah said, they were to seek the Lord at that time (Jer. 50:4,5), Daniel did. We know it was his daily habit to pray (ch. 6:10). Three times a day he sought the sanctuary of God’s presence. How wise he was. Worship and prayer were absolute

essentials to him. Some only pray if a need befalls them. We don't want to be like that, Lord help us.

Daniel also "fasted." he was so burdened, he couldn't think about eating. In "sackcloth and ashes," speaks of humiliation and grief. Daniel humbled himself before God. James 4:10 & I Pet. 5:6.

**V. 4-6** - "O Lord, the great the dreadful (or wonderful) God," is another rendering. Daniel knew God to be a covenant keeping God, full of mercy to them that love him and keep (or guard) His Word. Daniel had not sinned like we read here. Yet, he identifies himself with the whole nation. He prays as though he is guilty of all this. He is interceding for the people of God. This is certainly the spirit of Christ. He took upon Himself the form of man and the sins of man in His own body. Paul said, in Rom. 9:3, he wished to be accursed from God for his people Israel. He couldn't do that, only Christ could bear that burden, but that was the spirit of Christ in him. Moses made the statement. "Lord blot my name out of your book, let me die in place of the people," but he couldn't do that either.

The nation hadn't admitted they sinned. God had given Israel every opportunity and sent prophet after prophet, but they paid no attention (II Chron. 36:16). God is going to have to bring that nation to this point and that is one of the purposes of tribulation days to come. The first part of tribulation is judgment against the Gentiles, The last 42 months is judgment against the Jewish people, to bring them to the place that they will bow themselves in sackcloth and ashes and humble themselves before God and say, "we have sinned." In those terrible days, a remnant will cry out and seek the Lord to forgive them.

**V. 7-8** - This is how to touch the throne of God, on the basis of His righteousness and His grace. “But unto us confusion of faces (or shame is a better rendering). Here is the reason God has driven them to every country in the world, because of their trespasses **against God**. David said against Thee, and against Thee only have I sinned - Ps. 51:4. This is where sin really is. People might sin against people, but really their sin is against God.

This is real intercession and supplication. If we really pray for others, we would get under the burden as though it was our burden. This is what supplication means. In the Old Testament the priests would eat the sin-offering (part of it) and the sin-offering was offered for the sins of the people to the Lord. In a spiritual way, this is what that represents, we eat the sin-offering for other people. We bear their sins on ourselves as though we had done it and intercede for them.

Prayer becomes more urgent the closer we are to the time of a predicted event. We are drawing closer to a predicted time for us. The watchful ones pray even more than ever. The Lord is delighted with such, that are deeply interested in His affairs and are exercised in weeping and prayer. The callous and indifferent just assume that God's will, will be fulfilled regardless of their cooperation. Well, yes, it will, but we are to be a part of it. We are not being made kings and priest unless we inter into this ministry. Isa. 43:26; Ezek. 36:37; Isa. 45:11. Also we read a description of the prayers of the saints as incense to God in Rev. 5:8 and 8:4. They are a sweet odor to Him.

**V. 9** - This is beautiful, even though we have rebelled against Him, His grace still was not removed. God never at any time denied that Israel was His people. Even today most are



scattered throughout the nations, but they are still the people of God. He still loves them, Now, He could not have fellowship with them because of sin. There is a big difference between relationship and fellowship.

**Vs. 10-11** - The grace of God is the only means of Salvation, the only means of deliverance. Daniel does not claim God's promise to Abraham here, because they were still under the law of Moses and because of that, God had a right to punish them. Daniel acknowledges that God is just in His ways with His people, yet he holds fast the fact that they are **His people**. This is a wonderful prayer, marked by repentance and abasement toward God, yet also by a confidence in His unchanging love and faithfulness.

**V. 12** - "Our judges that judged us" - not only the kings, but the priests were the judges of the people. Now, this couldn't be history, because Babylon destroyed Jerusalem. Here we have an end time condition which will be greater than any other condition that has ever been in Jerusalem. It will be terrible. As we read in Mt. 24, except the days be shortened no flesh shall be left. It will be worse than it has ever been or ever shall be.

**V. 13-14** - "As is written in the law of Moses," - Deut. 28:15. They didn't hearken to God, so what could they expect but all those curses. God sees the evil of this earth, nothing escapes Him. He is righteous in His works. There is no blame to God, but people seem to want to blame God. They get into trouble and they want to blame God for it. This is what Israel did. We can't blame God, He is holy and righteous. He has a right to do what He wants to do. "For we obeyed not His voice."

**V. 15-16** - God has proven His power and His love for them, but we have sinned and done wickedly. How hard it is to have

love spurned. Daniel pleads for mercy. Mercy is the only basis he has in which to plead. When they call upon the Lord again, then they can use that covenant to Abraham as a leverage. They can say, Lord you promised Abraham you would bless us. Rom. 9,10 & 11. In that day when all the nations will be gathered around them to destroy them, there will be no way to turn, but to the Lord.

Daniel not only prays for the people, but also the City of Jerusalem. Why? Because the Lord gave this city His name and it belongs to Him. Just think how many years it has been in the hands of the enemies of God. A large part of Jerusalem is still Arab, so in a sense it is still in Arab hands, though it belongs to Israel. Many of the Jews there are unbelievers. Yet little by little, the Lord is going to answer Daniel's prayer.

**V. 17** - Daniel says, look what shame they are in and they are called by Thy name. He says not for the people's sake, but for the Lord's sake. When Jesus comes in answer to this cry, then the sanctuary will be cleaned, it won't be desolate any more.

**V. 18-19** - Isn't this beautiful? But this is not their attitude today. Their attitude is set on their righteousness. When we get good enough God will come and deliver us. God is going to have to bring them down to nothing and then they will rely completely on the mercies of God. "For His mercy endureth forever" - Ps. 106:1; 107:1; 118:1; 136:1; Jer. 33:11. When the remnant of Israel prays like this, God is going to hear and do something. Praise the Lord!

Next time we will read that God heard Daniel's prayer and answered.

E. J. D.